

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application. No claims have been canceled, added or amended. Applicants do not request entry of the amendments filed January 28, 2004. Instead, Applicants rely on the claims as submitted on April 28, 2003. Applicants submit the following new arguments in support of the patentability of the claims.

Summary of Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Nakarani for his time and attention in the personal interview held on March 12, 2004. In the interview, Applicants' Representative presented arguments against the combination of Saeki '804 and Spain '712. No agreement was reached in the interview.

Rejection under 35 USC 103(a)

The Examiner maintains the rejection of claims 1-19 as obvious over U.S. patent 5,725,712 to Spain et al. in view of U.S. patent 5,829,804 to Saeki et al. Applicants traverse the rejection and respectfully request the withdrawal thereof.

In the Advisory Action dated February 23, 2004, the Examiner stated that the arguments and amendments submitted in the Reply of January 28, 2004 were not persuasive to overcome

the rejection because the polyester carrier in Spain '712 is an optional embodiment. The Examiner points to Figure 7 of Spain '712 for support. The Examiner also states that Saeki '804 discloses component E, a polyhydroxy polyolefin, as an optional component. The Examiner states that the present claim language does not distinguish the invention from the cited art. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Saeki '804 discloses automobile bumpers made of a special resin composition that has an excellent paintability. Saeki '804 only suggests incorporation of component (E) polyhydroxy polyolefin in a car bumper to improve the paintability of the bumper. However, Saeki '804 does not suggest that the paintability of the bumper can be improved when component (E) is not used. Paintability in Saeki '804 as referenced at column 7, line 43 to column 8, line 6 refers to traditional painting and does not refer to dry paint transfer or injection cladding.

On the other hand, Spain '712 relates to dry paint transfer techniques. Spain '712 discloses a laminate comprising an external clear coat, a color coat and a thermoformable plastic backing sheet. The laminate is prepared by dry paint transfer-laminating techniques. The resulting laminate is thermoformed into a complex three dimensional shape and then bonded to a plastic substrate material by injection cladding techniques.

This is explained in the Abstract of Spain '712. Spain '712 is not concerned with traditional painting as taught in Saeki '804.

As such, Applicants submit that there is no motivation to combine Saeki '804 with Spain '712, particularly since Saeki '804 teaches away from dry paint transfer and injection cladding. Moreover, Saeki '804 teaches away from using a composition that does not includes component (E) where one is concerned with the adhesiveness between the size coat and the color coat as disclosed in Spain '712.

Although the technology in Spain '712 and Saeki '804 is tangentially related, the relationship between the two is weak because Spain '712 is associated with dry paint transfer and injection cladding while Saeki '804 is associated with traditional painting. The properties for a dry paint transfer or injection cladding as disclosed in Spain '712 are greatly different from the properties of paintability of the bumper as disclosed in Saeki '804.

Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would be dissuaded from combining Spain '712 and Saeki '804 to arrive at the present invention. As such, Applicants submit that no prima facie case of obviousness has been established and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

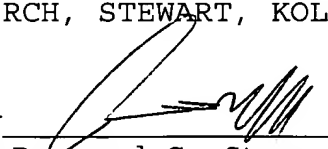
As Applicants have addressed and overcome all rejections in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and that the claims be allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Kecia Reynolds (Reg. No. 47,021) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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